

REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 4-8, 10-28, and 30-39 are allowable. The Applicants respectfully request that the proposed amendments to Claims 4, 11, 13, 24, 30, and 31 be considered. No new matter is added by this amendment.

According to the Office Action, dated January 6, 2006, in Section 3, the Examiners states "that a first ion detector in the first flow path or in the second flow path is neither disclosed nor taught by the cited prior art of record, alone or in combination." Accordingly, the Applicant have amended base Claims 4 and 24 include the "first ion detector in the second flow path" and "detecting ions in the second flow path" respectively (See amended Claims 4 and 24). Therefore, amended based Claims 4 and 24 should be allowable.

Applicants have also amended dependent Claims 11, 13, 30, and 31 to make these claims consistent with now amended base Claims 4 and 24. Because these claims are dependent on and limited by base Claims 4 and 24, these claims should be allowable.

Applicants have further amended base Claims 4 and 24 to more clearly indicate that both the second and third flow paths can receive "a portion of" the first ions from the first flow path which is consistent with the Examiner telephone interview on February 24, 2006.

Based on the above remarks, amended Claims 4, 11, 13, 24, 30, and 31 should be in an allowable condition along with dependent Claims 5-8, 10, 12, 14-23, 25-28, and 32-29.

No new matter is added by the foregoing amendment.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Applicants believe that we have appropriately provided for fees due in connection with this submission. However, if there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this Response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-1945, under Order No. SION-P02-006 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: March 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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